

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4339

UNCLAS MANILA 5631

ATTN: PPC/IA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: APPRAISAL OF UNICEF PROGRAM

REF: AIDTO CIRCULAR A-176

1. UNICEF HAS SUPPORTED AN APPLIED NUTRITION PROGRAM (ANP) SINCE 1963, CENTERED IN THE PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT IMPROVED FOOD AND NUTRITION PRACTICES WOULD DIFFUSE THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY AND INTO THE FAMILY VIA THE SCHOOL. IN 1968 USAID, WITH COLLABORATION FROM UNICEF IN PROGRAM PLANNING, BEGAN TO ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO SET-UP MOTHERCRAFT CENTERS (NUTRITIONAL REHABILITATION) FOR INFANTS, PRE-SCHOOLERS, AND MOTHERS AS EXTENSIONS OF RURAL HEALTH UNITS.

RECOGNIZING THESE EFFORTS WERE STILL LARGELY FRAGMENTED, USAID AND UNICEF COLLABORATED IN 1970-71 IN URGING THE GOP TO CONSIDER A MORE NATION-WIDE PROGRAM, CENTRALLY COORDINATED. AT THAT TIME THE ANP HAD REACHED LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF ALL SCHOOLS AND MOTHERCRAFT CENTERS AS EXTENSIONS OF RURAL HEALTH UNITS WERE OPERATING IN A SIMILAR "SPOTTY" SCALE.

2. IN 1971, GOP RESPONDED BY PLACING NUTRITION PROGRAM PLANNING AND COORDINATION UNDER THE NATIONAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURE COUNCIL, THE NATIONAL BODY RESPONSIBLE FOR ACHIEVING IMPROVED EFFICIENCY IN RICE AND CORN PRODUCTION, THE COUNTRY'S MAJOR FOOD STAPLES. BOTH UNICEF AND USAID PARTI-

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CIPATED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE OUTLINE OF A PHILIPPINE

4-YEAR FOOD AND NUTRITION PROGRAM. THESE JOINT UNICEF AND USAID EFFORTS AT STIMULATING PLANNERS IN THE GOP, AND A CONTINUING SIZEABLE US FOOD FOR PEACE FOOD ASSISTANCE TARGETTED TO MALNOURISHED CHILDREN, WERE MAJOR FACTORS IN CREATING NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE EXTENSIVE CHILD MALNUTRITION PROBLEM WHICH CULMINATED IN THE CREATION OF AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL (NNC) BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE IN 1974. THIS RESUME CLEARLY REVEALS CONTINUING UNICEF/USAID EXCHANGES OF IDEAS AND PROGRAM PLANS IN THE INTEREST OF IMPROVING NUTRITION PROGRAMMING IN THE COUNTRY.

3. ALTHOUGH NUTRITION PROJECTS HAVE BEEN BENEFICIAL WHERE CONDUCTED, THESE PROJECTS HAVE NOT HAD SUFFICIENT OUTREACH TO EFFECT AN IMPROVEMENT IN CHILD HEALTH AS MEASURED BY NATIONWIDE CHILD MORTALITY AND CHILD MORBIDITY STATISTICS. UNICEF AND USAID CONTINUE TO REVIEW AND EVALUATE GOP NUTRITION INTERVENTIONS AND PROGRAM STRATEGIES, HOWEVER, TO ACHIEVE THIS END.

4. CURRENTLY, MUTUALLY AGREED TO SUPPORT IS EXTENDED BY USAID AND UNICEF TO IMPROVE A RURAL EXTENSION PROGRAM OF MALNUTRITION PREVENTION WITH FOCUS ON THE WEANING PROCESS. UNICEF INPUT HAS BEEN MAINLY IN ASSISTANCE WITH TRAINING WHILE USAID HAS PROVIDED TECHNICAL ADVISORY SUPPORT AND COMMODITIES.

5. UNICEF AND USAID HAVE ALSO COLLABORATED IN THE SUPPORT OF THE INTEGRATED DELIVERY OF NUTRITION, FAMILY PLANNING, FOOD PRODUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (PROJECT COM-PASSION). UNICEF HAS PROVIDED VEHICLES TO FACILITATE FIELD TRAINING, WHILE USAID HAS SUPPORTED THE FOOD PRODUCTION COMPONENT (GREEN REVOLUTION) WITH TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICES AND COMMODITIES.

6. UNICEF AND USAID CONTINUE TO URGE THE GOP TO COMPLETE A DEFINITIVE, 4 OR 5 YEAR NUTRITION PLAN AS A BASIS OF DECIDING UPON MOST EFFECTIVE USE OF EXTERNAL RESOURCES.  
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